

**ComputerPals - Newcastle**

Where Seniors master technology

# SWITCHED ON SENIORS

Email : [contact@computerpals.org.au](mailto:contact@computerpals.org.au)

## President

**Barry  
Keen**

## Dates to Remember

**Social outing: Friday  
Nov 10—Hunter  
Wetlands****Christmas lunch—  
Thursday Dec 7  
Club Lambton****BE A ZOOMIE and  
join us online.  
Thursday mornings @  
9:45 am (see Page 3)****Special Groups -  
Memorypals,  
Writerpals & Digipals  
will meet on their  
usual days (see Page  
3)**

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Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

## President's Report—November 2023

**Congratulations to all of our members that submitted entries to the Annual ASCCA Competitions (Poetry, Creative Writing and Digital Photography). You did us proud and many won accolades for their entries and positive feedback from the judges. For the details read the ASCCA Newsletter or [CLICK HERE](#)**

Our club continues to tick along presenting learning opportunities but just as importantly it provides a friendly, happy environment to enjoy companionship. If you are not already... come along and join us.

It is only 5 weeks to our Christmas lunch (Thursday 7/12—put the date in your diary). Social Organiser—Brenton Elsey will send out more information in due course.

Cheers, Barry Keen, President

## COMPUTERPALS CLASSES

**Remember:** *please book in for the classes you want to attend.* That helps us to know how many tutors are needed. If we can get that right—you will benefit by more personal help. **Note:** BeConnected classes are free, but afternoon Assistance classes on Mondays are not (cost \$5 per 1½ hours) and are available only to Computerpals financial members. Don't just drop in—we are restricted to the booked in numbers we can help.

**How do I book in:** **Phone: 0478 219 220** (remember we are all volunteers and the call may go to voicemail—if it does—leave your name & phone number and the reason for your call—someone will get back to you.

**Term 4 Zoom** sessions are for Computerpals members (cost \$10 covers the whole of Term 4).



James Hart (Treasurer)

**Computerpals membership:** cost is \$25 for the financial year to 30/6/2024.

**How do I pay:** visit the club's website and click on the 'Membership' tab at the top of the page for all the information you need. Don't forget—put your name and what you are paying for on your payment (that helps the Treasurer).

From the desk of Brenton, our Social Organizer Extraordinaire. Thank you Brenton, you do a magnificent job

Our next outing will be to the Hunter Wetlands at Shortland on Friday 10th November 2023.

These Wetlands are a mecca for a multitude of birdlife, with some 217 species represented in some 56 families having been recorded there, including waterbirds, migratory waders, pigeons, parrots and honeyeaters just to mention some. Ibis, egrets, ducks and frogs also call this place home, while a number of endangered and vulnerable species are also found here. In addition to these and other living creatures, the Wetlands Centre has its own nursery, specializing in native plant species including shrubs, grasses and water/wetlands plants. Such diversity lends itself to a photographer's windfall, and as such and in conjunction with Digipals, we will be providing you with a list of set subjects to capture with your camera or phone for review at a later date.

The Wetlands Centre provides free car parking with disabled parking and set-down zone, ramps and a lift from the visitor centre to ground level, hard stand gravel and mown grass trails, along with wheelchair accessible toilets. Details for the day are as follows;

When: Friday 10th November 2023

Time: 9.30am - Morning Tea

10.00am - Explore and photography

11.30am - 12.00pm???? - Lunch (optional)

Cost: Entry - \$5.00 (senior/pensioner), M/Tea, Lunch - at your expense

The usual outdoor activity 'necessaries' are suggested, including comfortable walking shoes, hat/cap, insect repellent, sunscreen and, of course, your camera/phone. You might like to print out the walking trail map and bring it with you for obvious reasons (<http://wetlands.org.au/>).

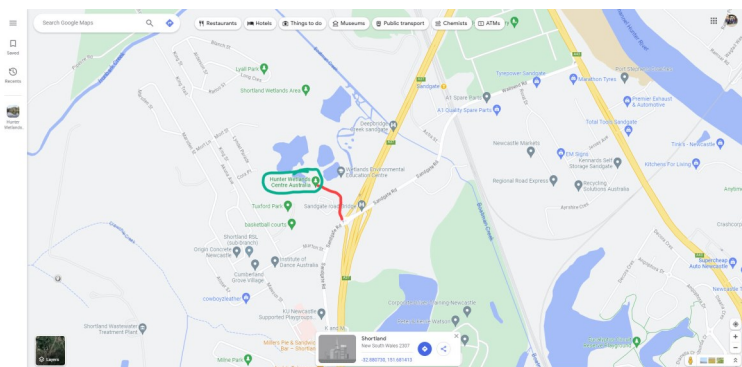
Please [click here](#) to download the attendance form, complete the details and submit. As always, we need this information to keep track of everyone attending. If you send in the form indicating your intention to attend and then find you are unable to come, please give me a call so the group is not held up unnecessarily. Please also check your emails regularly before this adventure for any further change/cancellation due to weather etc.

See you there.

Brenton Elsey

Social Secretary

0438 997 310

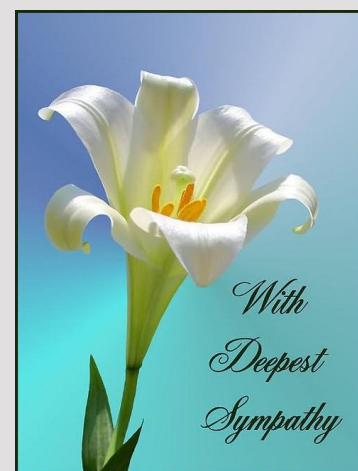


## Best Wishes

*For all our members  
who are celebrating  
birthdays and  
anniversaries - hearty  
congratulations !*



*To those who are ill we  
send our best wishes  
for a speedy recovery.*



## Condolences

*To those of our  
members who have lost  
loved ones recently,  
please accept our  
sincere condolences.  
You are in our  
thoughts.*

Australian Seniors  
Computer Clubs Association **ASCCA**

## Special Interest Groups



### MemoryPals

Our new group meets on **first Tuesday** of each month at **1:00pm**. (ex November)  
Reminisce about your childhood memories and learn how to preserve them.



### WriterPals

Our Creative Writing group is for enthusiasts, not experts. We meet on the **second Thursday** of each month. Meetings begin at **1:00 pm**.



### DigiPals

DigiPals is an active group of ComputerPals members who meet on the **third Thursday** of each month at **1 p.m.** to explore digital photography.

### Zoom Sessions

Financial  
Computerpals members can join us online every Thursday (ex during school holidays) from 10:00 am (Term fee applies)



Meetings for the special activity groups have changed days. Individual Assistance on Mondays means that Tutors are not available to attend these groups so they have been moved as shown below.

*All will be at Club Lambton.*

### MemoryPals

The MemoryPals group normally meet on the **first Tuesday** of the month at 1 pm; however, the next meeting for Memorypals will be in conjunction with Writerpals on Thursday afternoon **9th November** at 1pm at Club Lambton, unless notified differently

### WriterPals

WriterPals will meet on the **second Thursday** of the month at 1 pm; Next meeting for Writerpals will be on **Thursday 9th November at 1 pm at Club Lambton**. Bring something you've written or some idea you'd like to write about - maybe your own eulogy. After all, who knows you better than you, and who knows better than you what you would like to be remembered for. **The Annual ASCCA Competition for Poetry and Creative Writing produced some excellent results and positive feedback from the judge(s). Congratulations to all who entered.**

### DigiPals

DigiPals will meet on the **third Thursday** of the month at 1 pm.

**Annual ASCCA Digital Photography** - Lots of you entered photos in the competition - reputation to uphold and all that—well done we did really well. Next meeting will be at **Club Lambton on November 16th** at 1pm

### Thursday Zoomies

Thursday will be devoted to regular Zoom classes commencing at 10:00 am. You should be a financial member of Computerpals and have paid your Term 4 (cost \$10) Zoom fees.

An email will be sent out with "What's On" and the log in codes.

Please join in if you can. Do not be isolated, join us for a bit of fun and companionship (aside from any learning).

To find out what is on check your email or send an email to us at [contact@computerpals.org.au](mailto:contact@computerpals.org.au) or phone **0478 219 220**

### ComputerPals Mission

Our mission is to educate seniors in the use of computers as a way of enriching their lives and making them more self-reliant. We bridge the generation gap and assist seniors to find ways to benefit the community through their collective experience and knowledge.



## Contact Us



To contact the Roster Team or the Treasurer regarding class rosters

or payments use:

[islingtonpals@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonpals@gmail.com)

**Roster Team**

Sandra Keen



Mitzi Gordon



Judy Wallace

Jackie Lampe

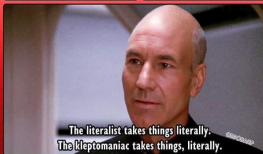
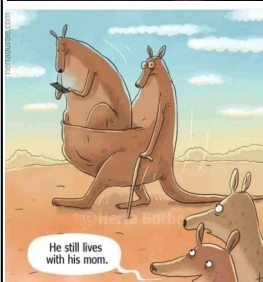
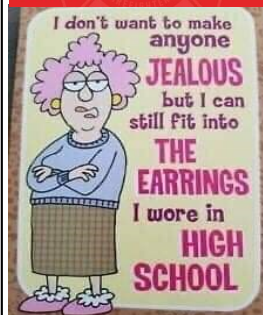


**James Hart**  
Treasurer

These people are all volunteers and most also teach classes at Computerpals. We ask that you take this into consideration when your phone call is not answered immediately.

## Funnybone:

**I'VE HEARD PEOPLE SAY THAT YOU DON'T NEED COFFEE TO WAKE YOU UP. YOU ALSO DON'T NEED A PARACHUTE TO SKYDIVE, BUT IT HELPS.**



Step 1: Go to a drive through.

Step 2: Say "I'm sorry but I'm blind. Can you read the menu to me?"

Step 3: See how long they'll read before realizing you can't drive if you're blind.



**I just got myself a pet termite. I'm going to call him Clint, Clint Eats Wood**

**Don't be worried about your smartphone and TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been gathering dirt on you for years.**

**As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of.... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.**

**A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR WITH A SMALL NEWT ON HIS SHOULDER. THE BARTENDER SAYS, "WHAT AN INTERESTING PET; WHAT'S HIS NAME?" "TINY," THE MAN REPLIES. "WHAT AN ODD NAME! WHY DO YOU CALL HIM TINY?" "BECAUSE HE'S MY NEWT..."**

**I haven't lost my mind...half of it just wandered off, and the other half went looking for it.**

**A friend suggested horse manure on my strawberries. I'm not doing that again. I'm going back to whipped cream.**



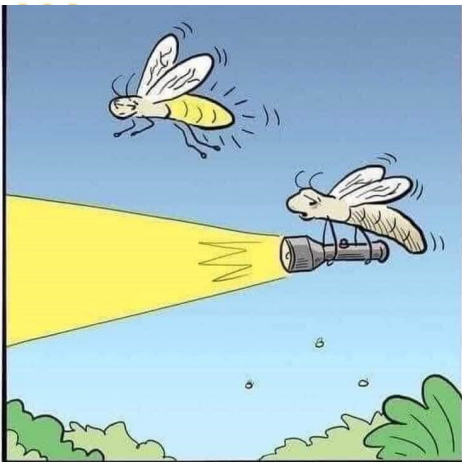
So the new CEO decides it's time to rid the company of slackers. On a tour of the facilities, he notices a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers. Seeing a chance to show he meant business, he says to the guy, 'How much money do you make a week?'

A little surprised, the young man says, 'I make \$400. Why?'

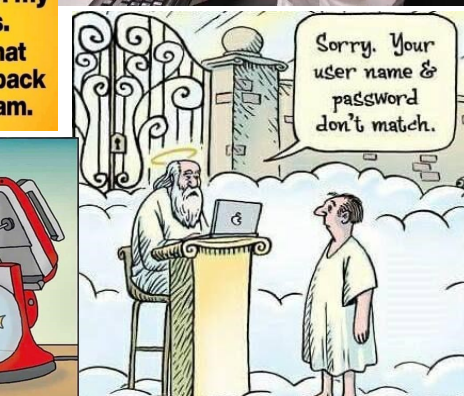
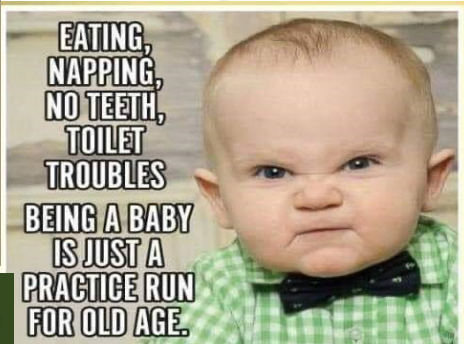
The CEO says, 'Wait right here.' He walks back to his office and comes back in two minutes. He hands the guy \$1,600 in cash and says, 'Here's four weeks' pay. Now get out and don't come back!'

Feeling like a boss now, the CEO looks around and says, 'Does anyone want to tell me what that goofball's job was around here?'

From across the room, a voice says, 'Pizza delivery guy from Domino's.'



"When you get to be my age, things don't work like they used to."



**PRIVACY STATEMENT:** Information contained in this Newsletter is only for the members of the ComputerPals Newcastle Inc. The Editor accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, libels, inaccuracy or other shortcomings of this newsletter.

***A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PRESERVE THE REMAINING HAIR OF OUR TREASURER JAMES.***

*When you make a payment to Computerpals, either online or over the counter at the bank, it can sometimes become a very daunting task trying to track down who sent it. For that reason, and to enable Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot to remain in retirement, PLEASE put your name in the reference line plus what the payment is for eg Jackie Chan AGM. That will show up with the payment amount and is very easy then for our hard-working treasurer to mark off his list. Thank you.*

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**A Letter from Graham King**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am again taking part in the MS Sydney to the Gong Bike Ride to be held on Sunday 5 November 2023, which is the main fundraiser for MS. This is the 18th time I have ridden in this event and the first time as an octogenarian as I turned 80 in March this year. I am therefore calling it my OctoGONGarian bike ride and together with all the other riders I will be raising donations which go directly to supporting sufferers of MS, as the costs of running the event are covered by the entry fees.

Multiple sclerosis is the most common disease of the central nervous system in young adults and it strikes young people in the prime of their lives. It affects more young people than any other chronic neurological condition and the average age of diagnosis is 30. It can strike anyone at any time and the systems vary widely. For instance, can you imagine waking up one day unable to do the everyday things you usually take for granted? Like not being able to see properly (or at all), or you physically can't get out of bed, or you can't even walk to the phone to call someone. There is no cure. Cases of MS are rising and over 33,300 Australians live with the condition; an increase of 30% in the past four years.

I am therefore taking on this challenge to ride from Sydney to the Gong to help people living with MS to get the support they need to achieve their goals and live life to the fullest.

I have done 17 previous Gong Rides between 1998 and 2022 including the “2020 Virtual Gong Ride” during the pandemic where participants had to set their own goals and do individual rides in their own areas. My goals were to ride 500km for the month of October including 100km in one day and to raise \$1,000 and I am proud to say I was able to achieve all three goals. Last year I completed the actual course to Wollongong in 4 hours and 5 minutes and raised over \$1,000 in donations. This year the course is basically the same starting from Tempe Recreation Reserve along the Princes Highway to Waterfall and then through the Royal National Park and then down the coast road over the Sea Cliff Bridge at Stanwell Park and finishing at Lang Park, Wollongong. The distance is 82km and my goal is to finish in under 4 hours.

All riders are raising money to fight multiple sclerosis and I have set a modest goal of \$750 which I hope to exceed.

Multiple sclerosis strikes people in the prime of their lives, and there's no known cure. That's why I have again challenged myself to ride to Wollongong to fight MS. Help me make sure no one faces MS alone. A donation can be made through my page <https://www.msgongride.org.au/fundraiser/grahameking>

When the page comes up click on DONATE and then type in Grahame King in the box “Search for a Fundraiser”.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and hoping that you can see your way clear to make a donation whatever the amount.

Regards and best wishes,

Grahame King     0410 688 214



This example of Free Verse was submitted to the ASCCA Competition by Barbara Bartlett. She has been a consistent winner over the years and this effort gained her a Highly Commended. Well Done, Barbara

Loki was the Norse God of mischief and trickery and was in danger of banishment from Asgard on a number of occasions. He was also a shape-shifter and could change his shape from human form to that of any animal he chose. One of his children was Fenrir, who was a wolf-shifter

## LOKI

Loki, you Nordic god of mischief  
A cunning trickster.  
I have seen how you twisted and pulled  
The earth into sharp peaked mountains  
And then dusted them with snow. So wondrous.  
So beautiful.  
Loki, you disobey the laws of nature. You have no concern  
For the well being of anything.  
I saw how you pulled the land apart  
Leaving huge gashes in the earth  
And, I saw the great cauldrons of fire  
Where you stir up your mischief. Spell binding.  
Magic

Loki, you delight in frightening noises  
By creating earthquakes, Like a pounding migraine  
That the earth and people must suffer.  
You shoot steam high into the air with such force  
That even the birds cry out for mercy.  
Casting spells Witchcraft.  
Loki, you took no mercy on me.  
Your hideous giggle made me hang my head in shame.  
When I tipped over the snowmobile And had to be rescued.  
You lost my glasses in the snow.  
Yes, you can revel in your mischief. Loki  
But your creation has been a delight.  
Magical and wonderful Iceland.

*By Barbara Bartlett - Newcastle*